



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD **EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AWARD PROGRAM (EAAP)**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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ELIGIBILITY

Q: I'VE BEEN IN THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD FOR OVER 4 YEARS, BUT I LIVE IN NEVADA. DOES THIS AFFECT MY ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CNG EAAP?

A: Yes, only residents of California are eligible for awards. To meet residency requirements, you must have had a physical presence in California for at least one year and with the intent to make California home for other than a temporary purpose (reference the California Education Code, Sections 68000 to 68134).

Q: I SERVED 4 YEARS IN THE NATIONAL GUARD BUT HAVE ONLY BEEN IN THE CNG FOR 1 YEAR. DOES MY TIME COUNT TOWARDS THE 2-YEAR REQUIREMENT?

A: No, a CNG EAAP applicant must have a minimum of 2 years of service in the California National Guard or the California State Military Reserve. Time in other service does not count for this program.

Q: I SERVED 2 YEARS IN THE ACTIVE ARMY BUT HAVE ONLY BEEN IN THE CNG FOR 1 YEAR. DOES MY ACTIVE DUTY TIME COUNT TOWARDS THE 2-YEAR REQUIREMENT?

A: No, a CNG EAAP applicant must have a minimum of 2 years of service in the California National Guard or the California State Military Reserve. Time in other service does not count.

Q: I AM PURSUING MY MASTER'S DEGREE. CAN I USE THIS PROGRAM?

A: Yes. You can use the EAAP to obtain any certificate/diploma/degree not already held, including a doctorate's.

Q: CAN MY DEPENDANTS USE THIS PROGRAM?

A: No. This program is only for active, drilling service members.

AWARD AMOUNT

Q: DOES MY G.I. BILL OR MY FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE BENEFITS AFFECT MY AWARD?

A: The current legislation requires that the VA benefits you receive be subtracted from your cost of attendance (tuition, fees, housing, food, books, transportation, and personal expenses) as determined by your institution. The CNG EAAP can cover the remaining cost of attendance up to the maximum award amount.

Q: HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I GET EACH YEAR FOR SCHOOL?

A: The amounts for the 2010-2011 academic year:

- \$1,551 at Community College (per Cal Grant B)
- \$10,302 at the University of California or a nonpublic institution (per Cal Grant A)
- \$4,429 at California State University (per Cal Grant A)
- Graduate studies: up to the maximum amount of Cal Grant A + \$500 for books and supplies

The maximum amounts reflect the annotated Cal Grant awards. Cal Grant maximum amounts are refigured annually and subject to change.

These amounts are divided by the number of terms your institution has. If you are attending an institution with a semester schedule, the maximum you can reach each semester is half of the yearly amount. If you are attending an institution with a quarter schedule, the maximum you can reach each quarter is a third of the yearly amount.

Q: HOW WILL I RECEIVE PAYMENT?

A: You will receive an e-mail when your check is sent to your institution. The check will be written in your name. Upon receipt of the check, funds may be immediately subject to satisfying any financial holds attached to your account at the school.

Q: DOES RECEIVING AN AWARD MEAN I WILL RECEIVE A CHECK?

A: Not necessarily. If you are receiving a Cal Grant payment, you could still receive a CNG EAAP award but you would not receive an award check from the CNG EAAP. Or, if the amount you receive in VA benefits meets or exceeds your cost of attendance as determined by the institution, you would still be an awardee but would not receive an award check.

EAAP OR CAL GRANT

Q: THE FORM ASKS ME TO CHOOSE THE CAL GRANT OR THE CNG EAAP. HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

A: The Cal Grant program is more exclusive than the CNG EAAP. Many service members will not be eligible for the Cal Grant. You can find more information on the Cal Grant program at <http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=20>.

EAAP	Cal Grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must attend at least 3 units a term• Merit-based• No age requirements• There are no GPA requirements to enter but a 2.0 cumulative GPA must be maintained while in the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must attend at least 6 units a term• Based on income• Be under 29• GPA (2.0 to attend a community college, 3.0 to attend a UC or CSU)• Open to general public
Can be used for any degree not currently held	Can only be used for an undergraduate or vocational degree (applicant cannot already hold an undergraduate degree)
VA Benefits do affect the cost of attendance equation (see Award Amount).	VA Benefits (i.e. GI Bill and Federal Tuition Assistance) are not factored into the cost of attendance equation.

If you choose the Cal Grant, you will not receive an EAAP award check, but you will use a percentage of your eligibility unless you go on a Leave of Absence (see [Absences/Deployments](#)).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q: HOW DO I COMPLETE THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING?

A: Once you've initialed all of the boxes, filled in the information boxes, and signed the second page, you need to coordinate with your unit of assignment to have your Commander sign it prior to turning it in. In most cases, this can be done by mail, fax, scan, or in person. After obtaining your Commander's signature, the SOU needs to be sent back to Ms. Katrina Beck at Joint Forces Headquarters by e-mail or fax. (katrina.beck2@us.army.mil or fax 916-854-3739)

Q: I HAD TO REPORT MY ANNUAL INCOME ON THE FAFSA. HOW IS THIS USED?

A: While the CNG EAAP requires that you complete the FAFSA, it is a merit-based program. At no time is your annual income used or referenced for this program.

Q: HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM SELECTED OR NOT AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION?

A: You will receive a letter stating whether or not you were selected to receive an EAAP award.

INSTITUTIONS

Q: WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS?

A: The list is available in a drop-down box on the application. You can also check the California Student Aid Commission's web site for eligible institutions by name or location at http://sandbox.csac.ca.gov/internet/Institution_Search.asp?mode=retrieve.

Q: MY INSTITUTION IS NOT LISTED ON THE APPLICATION.

A: Institutions interested in becoming eligible for CNG EAAP must contact the California Student Aid Commission and are required to complete a Cal-Grant Institutional Participation Agreement. Service members may not request that institutions be added to the list of eligible schools nor contact the Commission on behalf of a non-eligible institution.

ABSENCES/DEPLOYMENTS

Q: I AM NOT ATTENDING FOR THE FALL SEMESTER. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO STAY IN THE PROGRAM?

A: If you are going to miss one or more terms, you need to submit a Leave of Absence request in order to keep your spot. If you do not submit a LOA request, you will have to reapply to the program and go through the prioritizing process again. Send the request to Ms. Katrina Beck at Joint Forces Headquarters by e-mail or fax. (katrina.beck2@us.army.mil or fax 916-854-3739)

SUMMER TERM

Q: Can I use the money for summer sessions?

A: This question has two possible answers:

1. If you are attending an institution that requires mandatory summer sessions, you will receive money for the summer sessions. Or,
2. If you are attending an institution where summer sessions are discretionary (optional), you may receive money if there are remaining funds available. When making a decision regarding your summer attendance, remember a participant receives 400% of program eligibility based on full-time enrollment for fall and spring. Eligibility is used for each term the participant attends and the amount of usage is determined by the institution's

type of term (quarter or semester) and your attendance status. This means you may not have enough to fully cover your fourth year.

REMAINING IN THE PROGRAM

Q: UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES COULD I BE REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM?

A: Awardees could be removed at any time if they do not continue to meet the requirements. Removal could occur if you:

- Left or lost status as an active member of the CNG or SMR.
- Lost status of good standing.
- Lost status of California residency
- Switched to an ineligible institution
- Did not maintain 3 units for the term
- Did not maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Did not attend a required term and failed to submit a Leave of Absence request
- You used up all of the 400% eligibility
- Falsifying or misrepresent data

Q: WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO CONTINUE IN THE PROGRAM THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR?

A: Awardees need to submit a renewal application and renewal Statement of Understanding for each academic year (until their eligibility is exhausted or they become disqualified). Renewals will be accepted from January 15 to June 1. Awardees who have not submit their renewal application and renewal Statement of Understanding will be withdrawn from the program and will have to reapply.